

A faint background image showing the silhouettes of several children standing in a row, facing away from the viewer.

# Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy



# ABA Therapy in South Dakota

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- 2014
  - Senate Bill 108 called for a study of services and insurance coverage for the treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) for children.
  - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published Informational Bulletin clarifying coverage for ASD services under Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT).
- 2015
  - Senate Bill 190 established coverage for ABA for the treatment of ASD for private health insurance plans and established the ABA Provider Workgroup to make recommendations regarding the certification and licensure of ABA Therapy Providers.

# ABA Therapy & Autism

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- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is the design, implementation, and evaluation of environmental modifications using behavioral stimuli and consequences to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior.
- ABA is one treatment for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.
  - Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder may receive a variety of services including Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech Therapy.

# ABA Therapy & Autism

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- ABA involves reducing problem behavior and increasing appropriate alternative behavior.
- ABA Therapy Components
  - Behavior Assessment
  - Care Plan Development & Modification
  - Direct Treatment
    - Individual Therapy
    - Group Therapy
  - Parent/Caregiver Training

# Amount & Cost of Services

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- ABA therapy uses individualized treatment plans specific to the needs of each child receiving therapy.
- Intensity and duration of services vary between children.
  - Typical services range between 10 to 40 hours of direct treatment per week.
- Costs vary with intensity.
  - Typical services range between \$10,000 to \$50,000 per child annually.

# ABA Therapy Providers

- ABA therapy providers include practitioners trained in applied behavior analysis and may include psychologists and behavior analysts.
- Behavior Analysts perform the ABA Assessment, develop the care plan and provide direct treatment and parent training.
  - Behavior Analysts are trained at the Masters or Doctoral Level.
  - May work with paraprofessionals trained at the bachelors, associate, or high school level for direct treatment delivery.

# ABA Therapy Providers

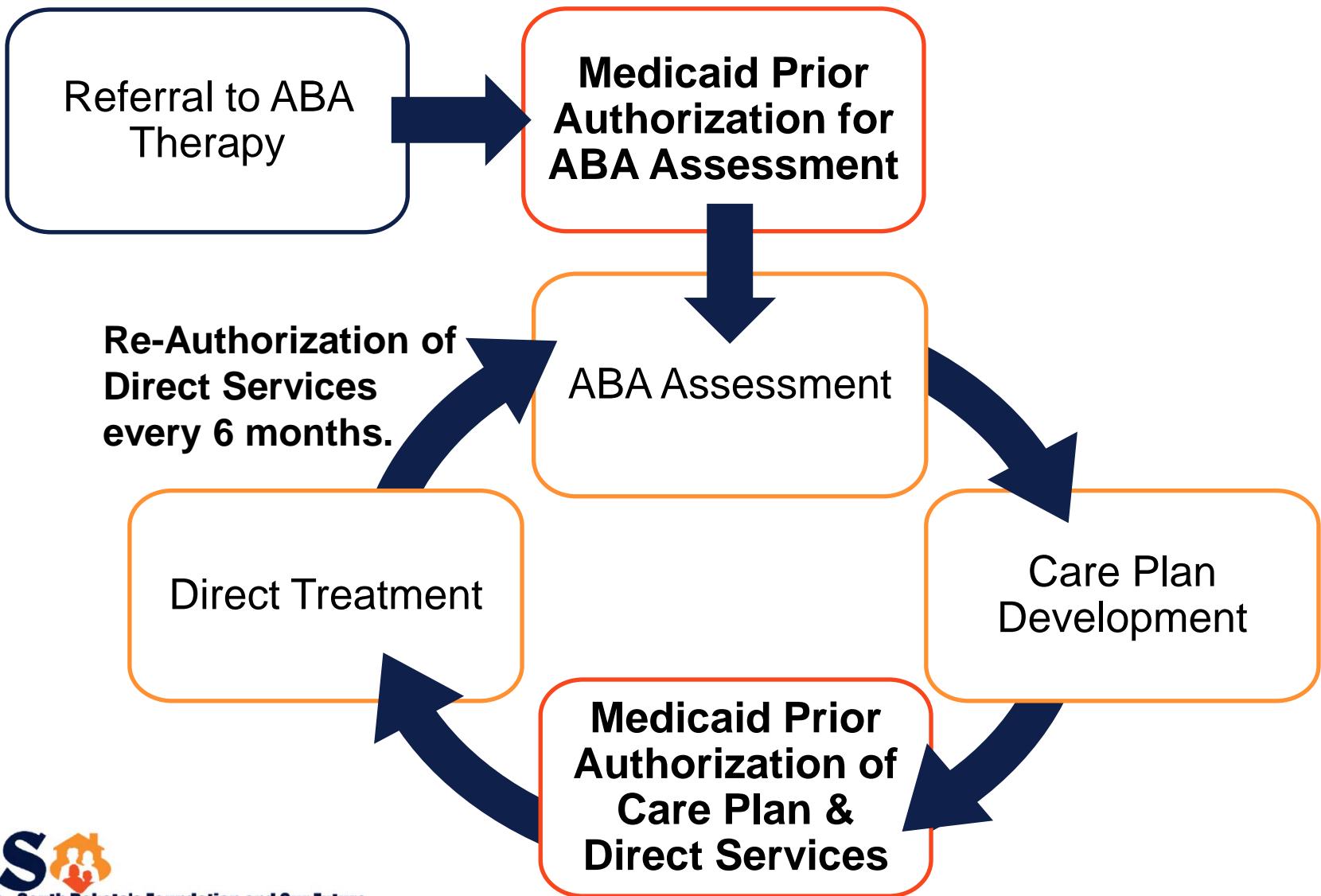
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- ABA Therapy Providers are not currently licensed by the state of South Dakota.
- Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) is a nonprofit corporation that grants professional certification to Behavior Analysts and registration to Behavior Technicians.
- BACB providers in South Dakota:
  - 14 Board Certified Behavior Analysts
  - 19 Behavior Technicians

# ABA & South Dakota Medicaid

- SD Medicaid covers ABA Therapy for children age 20 and younger under EPSDT.
- Providers must be eligible to enroll in South Dakota Medicaid.
  - This includes: Physicians, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, and BCBAAs credentialed as a qualified provider.
- ABA Therapy requires Prior Authorization from South Dakota Medicaid.
- South Dakota Medicaid estimates approximately 10 - 15 children may receive ABA services in SFY2016.
  - No Prior Authorization requests have been received.

# Medicaid Prior Authorization



# Next Steps

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- Identify opportunities to expand provider capacity for ABA services.
- Applied Behavior Analysis Provider Workgroup is studying the certification and licensure of ABA therapy providers.
  - Workgroup will make a final report to the Governor and the Legislature by December 1, 2015.